

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

119
H755A

THE HOUSEHOLD CALENDAR

A radio interview between Miss Ruth Van Deman and Miss Mary Rokahr, Bureau of Home Economics, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations, Tuesday, April 5, 1932.

LIBRARY
RECORDED
APR 12 1932

MISS VAN DEMAN: How do you do, Everybody:

I was very much interested the other day when I heard a school boy asking his mother how many dollars stood to his credit on her books. He said, "I want a bike and I've got to make a budget". Then he went on to tell just how much milk costs him each week for lunch at school, how much he spends on car fare and school supplies, and how much he pays for resoling his shoes each time. He said he must figure up all his expenses ahead, then he could tell exactly how much he must earn for his "bike". It struck me that for a 12-year-old he had a pretty good notion of how to make an earning and spending plan.

Miss Mary Rokahr, home management specialist of the Extension Service, says that more and more families are taking up this idea of planned spending. So I asked Miss Rokahr to come up with me today and tell about it first hand.

Miss Rokahr, what do you think is the best way for a family to go about making a spending plan?

MISS ROKAHR: Start with a family council, I think, Miss Van Deman. Suppose I describe how the Smith family living on a farm out in one of the Rocky Mountain States made such a spending plan. The idea was to keep the family's yearnings within the family's earnings -- not an easy thing to accomplish with an income only about half as large as in previous years.

There are 4 children in the Smith family. Mary, just out of high school, is the oldest. Then come three boys, John, in his last year of high school; Elmer, 12 years old; and George, seven. Mary was unable to go to college because of the lowered family income. Now, she would like to have a job in town, but she hasn't been able to find one this year.

Mrs. Smith got the idea of holding a family financial council from the home demonstration agent in their county. And Mr. Smith agreed that it would be a good thing to talk everything over with the children, and let them see just how things stand. So they gathered around the table and took an inventory of everything they possessed from the land itself and the farm equipment, right down through the house and the furniture to the clothes they were wearing. Then Mr. Smith told them what the farm outlook for the next year seems to be and the cash crops he plans to raise.

Next they figured up the family expenses for food, and clothes, and running the house. Also they estimated how much they needed for school expenses, for keeping the family healthy, and for recreation, church, and charity. They talked over everything about the automobile and tried to figure out how much of the expense belongs to the farm and how much to family fun. Also, they totaled up all the little personal expenses of everybody down the line

(over)

from Father to young George. It took them several evenings, but Elmer said it was a lot more fun than eighth grade arithmetic.

Mrs. Smith says that the whole family is pulling together on the financial situation. For one thing, they decided they must have a larger garden this year to cut down grocery bills. They are planting extra tomatoes and other vegetables for canning, and they are going to exchange some fruits with their neighbors so as to be sure they have a variety in winter as well as in summer. Since Mary can't find a job, she is going to make canning and preserving and drying foods for winter her particular way of adding to the family income.

Then they talked over how much milk and poultry and meat produced on the farm could contribute to the family living. The boys volunteered to take over the milking of another cow and to raise more poultry and thus contribute their bit just as Mary is going to do by canning.

Recently some economists attempted to find out just how much the farm does contribute in food to the family living. According to the estimates 6,000 farmers gave, it is about \$240 a year for each farm. The Smith boys may do even better than this.

On the clothes question, Mrs. Smith and Mary are weighing the pros and cons of ready-made and homemade garments. The inventory showed up some rather unwise purchases. So they are studying all the textile information they can lay their hands on, and they are giving more attention than ever to cleaning, remodeling, and repairing.

Mrs. Smith laughed as she told of the discussion over gas for the family car. Very little money can be allowed for this expense beyond needs for farm business. But with the community social festivities this year, the books and magazines they are exchanging with their neighbors, and the evenings of family fun they are planning for themselves, Mrs. Smith thinks the car will not be missed.

The Smith family plans to keep on with the family councils whether there is a financial crisis or not. It is a good way they believe, to adjust family needs to family income.

MISS VAN DEMAN: Thank you, Miss Rokahr.

Goodbye, Everybody, for this time. Next week the Household Calendar will unite with the Garden Calendar for a talk about the home vegetable garden.